

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /077 W

-----097741 151359Z /45

O R 151310Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2145

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJ: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, GENEVA, AUGUST 14-25, 1978

REF: (A) STATE 204786 (B) STATE 204787

1. AS INSTRUCTED BY REFTEL I SAW TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMED FITOURI AND MADE ALL POINTS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. I ALSO LEFT WITH HIM A COPY OF MAY TALKING POINTS.

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2. FITIOURI LISTENED PATIENTLY AND THEN COMMENTED THAT, WHILE HE BELIEVED MY DEMARCHE TO BE LOGICAL AND JUST AND WHILE HE AGREED THAT THE NEW EMPHASIS ON "ZIONISM IS-RACISM" IS BEING PUSHED BY FORCES INIMICAL TO THE CONCEPT OF A NEGOTIATED PEACE, HE SAW LITTLE HOPE OF REFERSING THE TIDE ON THIS ISSUE. "IT HAS NOW BECOME

VIRTUALLY A DOGMA IN OAU AND NAM MEETING", HE SAID. I EMPHASIZED THAT, WHILE THAT MAY BE TRUE, WE CONSIDER IT ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE ISSUE BE KEPT OUT OF UN BODIES, PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME WHEN IT CAN POISON THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE CRUCIAL HANDLING OF THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE MINISTER SAID THAT WERE IT LEFT TO TUNISIA THE Z/R QUESTION WOULD BE LEFT ON THE SHELF. THEN HE ADDED THAT HE COULD NOT AGREE WITH WASHINGTON'S ASSESSMENT THAT THE BLACK AFRICAN STATES FAVOR SOFT-PEDALING THE ISSUE. HE HAD SEEN NO OPPOSITION TO THE IDEA BY OTHER AFRICAN DELEGATIONS EXCEPT FOR THE IVORY COAST AT KHARTOUM; INDEED VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE BLACK AFRICAN STATES NOW THUMP THE TUB AGAINST THE "JERUSALEM-PRETORIA AXIS".

4. WHEN I MENTIONED THAT PARALLEL DEMARCHE WERE BEING MADE IN OTHER ARAB CAPITALS, FITOURI EVINCED AN INTEREST IN WHICH CAPITALS. HE MADE CAREFUL NOTE OF THEM, SAYING SUCH A LIST COULD BE USEFUL. NEVERTHELESS, BESIDES PROMISING THAT HE WOULD ASK THE TUNISIAN DELEGATION AT GENEVA TO CONSULT WITH OTHER MODERATE ARABS ON THE ISSUE, HE MADE NO OTHER UNDERTAKING.

5. COMMENT: I DON'T BELIEVE WE CAN EXPECT MUCH LEADERSHIP FROM TUNISIA ON THIS ISSUE AT THIS TIME.
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MULCAHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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